

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In re: JDS UNIPHASE CORPORATION
SECURITIES LITIGATION

No. C-02-1486 CW (EDL)

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART LEAD
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO LIMIT THE
SCOPE OF CONFIDENTIALITY
AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY FORMER
JDS UNIPHASE EMPLOYEES**

This document relates to ALL ACTIONS

In this securities action, lead plaintiff Connecticut Retirement Plans and Trust Funds ("Connecticut") moves to limit the scope of confidentiality agreements signed by former employees of defendant JDS Uniphase Corporation ("JDSU"). For the reasons set forth below, the motion is granted, with modifications.

I. Background

As lead plaintiff in this action, Connecticut has been investigating acts of JDSU and the individual defendants relating to alleged artificial inflation of the price of JDSU securities during the putative class period of July 27, 1999 through July 26, 2001. Investigators hired by lead counsel have identified and have spoken with numerous former employees of JDSU. Many of these former employees have informed the investigators that they are willing to talk about relevant activities at JDSU during the class period, but they believe they are unable to do so because of one or more confidentiality agreements that they entered into with JDSU (or with companies later acquired by JDSU) at the time they were hired, at the time they were terminated, or both.

One such agreement is entitled "Employee Proprietary Information and Inventions Agreement." (Gottlieb Decl., Ex. A.) That agreement provides, in relevant part:

(a) Confidential Restrictions. I understand that, in the course of my work as an employee of the Company, I [have had and] may have access to Proprietary

1 Information (as defined below) concerning the Company. I acknowledge that the
2 Company has developed, compiled, and otherwise obtained, often at great expense, this
3 information, which has great value to the Company's business. I agree to hold in strict
4 confidence and in trust for the sole benefit of the Company all Proprietary Information and
5 will not disclose any Proprietary Information, directly or indirectly, to anyone outside of the
6 Company, or use, copy, publish, summarize, or remove from Company premises such
7 information (or remove from the premises any other property of the Company) except (i)
8 during my employment to the extent necessary to carry out my responsibilities as an
9 employee of the Company or (ii) after termination of my employment, as specifically
10 authorized in writing by a duly authorized officer of the Company. I further understand that
11 the publication of any Proprietary Information through literature or speeches must be
12 approved in advance in writing by a duly authorized officer of the Company.

13 (b) Proprietary Information Defined. I understand that the term "Proprietary Information"
14 in this Agreement means all information and any idea in whatever form, tangible or
15 intangible, whether disclosed to or learned or developed by me, pertaining in any manner to
16 the business of the Company or to the Company's affiliates, consultants, or business
17 associates, unless (i) the information is or becomes publicly known through lawful means;
18 (ii) the information was rightfully in my possession or part of my general knowledge prior to
19 my employment by the Company; or (iii) the information is disclosed to me without
20 confidential or proprietary restriction by a third party who rightfully possesses the
21 information (without confidential or proprietary restriction) and did not learn of it, directly or
22 indirectly, from the Company. I further understand that the Company considers the
23 following information to be included, without limitation, in the definition of Proprietary
24 Information: (A) notebooks, schematics, techniques, employee suggestions, development
25 tools and processes, computer printouts, computer programs, design drawings and
26 manuals, and improvements; (B) information about costs, profits, markets, and sales; (C)
27 plans for future development and new product concepts; and (D) all documents, books,
28 papers, drawings, models, sketches, and other data of any kind and description, including
electronic data recorded or retrieved by any means, that have been or will be given to me
by the Company (or any affiliate of it), as well as written or verbal instructions or
comments.

18 (Id. at 1.)

19 Another such agreement is entitled "Separation Agreement and General Release." (Gottlieb Decl.,
20 Ex. B.) That agreement provides, in relevant part:

21 You agree to return all Company property, including, without limitation, all books, manuals,
22 records, reports, notes, contracts, lists, blueprints, and other documents, or materials, or
23 copies thereof, and equipment furnished to or prepared by you in the course of or incident
24 to your employment. You also acknowledge and reaffirm your continuing obligations under
25 the Proprietary Information Agreement you signed with the Company on original date of
26 hire.

27 . . . You also agree that this Agreement is confidential and that you will not discuss it, or any
28 of its terms, with anyone without the Company's prior consent, except your spouse and to
any legal or financial advisors for legitimate business reasons, or as otherwise compelled by
law. Further, you agree that you will not make or publish, either orally or in writing, any
disparaging statement regarding the Company, its employees, clients, vendors, or
customers, or in any way impede or interfere with the Company's customer relationships.

28 (Id. at 2.)

1 A third agreement is entitled “E-Tek Dynamics, Inc. Proprietary Information and Inventions
2 Agreement.” (Macika Decl., Ex. A.) That agreement provides, in relevant part:

3 a. Definition Employee acknowledges and agrees that Employee has obtained or may now
4 or hereafter obtain from the Company certain of the Company’s confidential information,
5 which confidential information includes but is not limited to all of the Company’s (i) past,
6 present and future research, (ii) business, development and marketing plans, (iii) customer
7 lists and customer relationships, (iv) prices (except where publicly disclosed by the
8 Company) and pricing strategies, (v) secret inventions, processes, methods and
9 specifications, (vi) compilations of information (including without limitation studies, records,
10 reports, drawings, memoranda, drafts and any other related information), (vii) trade secrets,
11 (viii) product development proposals, and (ix) other ideas, concepts, strategies, designs,
12 suggestions and recommendations relating without limitation to any of the foregoing or to
13 any product developed or proposed to be developed by the Company or by the Employee
14 and/or others for the Company (collectively, the “Confidential Information”). Employee
15 further acknowledges and agrees that the Company is the owner of all such Confidential
16 Information, any copies thereof, and of all copyright, trade secret, patent, trademark and
17 other intellectual or industrial property rights therein or associated therewith. Employee
18 understands and agrees that the unauthorized use or disclosure of the Confidential
19 Information and any of the Company’s related intellectual and industrial property rights
20 constitutes unfair competition, and promises not to engage in any unfair competition with the
21 Company during Employee’s employment or at anytime thereafter.

22 b. Term. Employee agrees that for a period of five (5) years following either the disclosure
23 to Employee of any of the Company’s Confidential Information or the termination of
24 Employee’s employment with the Company, whichever is last to occur, Employee will not
25 disclose said information or any portion thereof to any person, firm, corporation or other
26 entity, or make use of such information in any way without the Company’s prior written
27 consent, or reverse engineer, de-compile, or disassemble any of the Company’s products
28 without such consent.

(Id. at 1.)

II. Discussion

Connecticut argues that the Court should limit the scope of these agreements and any other
confidentiality agreements between JDSU and its former employees so that they would not prohibit former
JDS Uniphase employees from responding to questions posed by investigators for Lead Plaintiff and/or by
Lead Counsel related to the alleged securities fraud. No proposed order has been submitted. Connecticut
contends that to the extent JDSU seeks to use the agreements for purposes other than the protection of
trade secrets, the agreements are unduly broad and should be deemed void as against public policy.
Alternatively, Connecticut requests “that the Court: (a) grant plaintiffs permission to depose a limited
number of former JDS Uniphase employees prior to the Court’s decision on the motion to dismiss, or (b)
grant plaintiffs an adverse inference that, despite public disclosures to the contrary, defendants were aware

of the Company's sharply declining financial condition and results prior to their selling of more than one billion dollars' worth of Company stock." (Motion at 12.)

A. The Reform Act's ban on discovery during the pendency of a motion to dismiss does not bar plaintiffs' motion

JDSU argues that Connecticut's motion is an impermissible attempt to evade the statutory restrictions on early discovery that are imposed by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("Reform Act").¹ The purpose of the Reform Act was "to restrict abuses in securities class-action litigation, including: (1) the practice of filing lawsuits against issuers of securities in response to any significant change in stock price, regardless of defendants' culpability; (2) the targeting of "deep pocket" defendants; (3) the abuse of the discovery process to coerce settlement; and (4) manipulation of clients by class action attorneys." SG Cowen Securities Corporation v. United States District Court for the Northern District of California, 189 F.3d 909, 911 (9th Cir. 1999) (quoting In re Advanta Corp. Secs. Litig., 180 F.3d 525, 530-31 (3d Cir. 1999)). The Reform Act instituted a heightened pleading standard, and "mandated a stay of discovery during the pendency of a summary judgment or dismissal motion." Id.

Under the Reform Act, "all discovery and other proceedings shall be stayed during the pendency of any motion to dismiss, unless the court finds upon the motion of any party that particularized discovery is necessary to preserve evidence or to prevent undue prejudice to that party." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(b)(3)(B). This section was "intended to prevent unnecessary imposition of discovery costs on defendants." SG Cowen, 189 F.3d at 911 (citing H.R. Conf. Rep. No. 104-369, 104th Cong. 1st Sess. at 32 (1995), reprinted in 1995 U.S.C.C.A.N. Sess. 731). The Ninth Circuit has held that the Reform Act's discovery stay provision "clearly contemplates that 'discovery should be permitted in securities class actions only after the court has sustained the legal sufficiency of the complaint.'" Id. at 912 (quoting S. Rep. No. 104-98, at 14 (1995), reprinted in U.S.C.C.A.N. 693). Thus, the Ninth Circuit has construed the Reform Act's discovery stay to apply not only during the pendency of a motion to dismiss, but until the Court has sustained the legal sufficiency of the complaint.

Here, there is no motion to dismiss pending, but the time for responding to the consolidated

¹ The Court has also received an opposition brief from defendant The Furukawa Electric Co. Ltd. ("Furukawa"), which correctly notes that they are not a party to the confidentiality agreements at issue, and thus Connecticut's references to "defendants" should not be taken to include Furukawa.

1 complaint has not yet elapsed. On September 12, Judge Wilken signed a stipulation granting defendants
2 until December 9 to respond to the consolidated complaint. JDSU's counsel indicated at the hearing that
3 they are likely to file a motion to dismiss. As the Court has not yet sustained the legal sufficiency of the
4 consolidated complaint, plaintiffs are not yet entitled to take discovery. Accordingly, under the Ninth
5 Circuit's interpretation of the Reform Act in SG Cowen, plaintiffs are not yet entitled to take discovery. Id.

6 There are two exceptions to the Reform Act's discovery stay. Discovery is stayed "unless the
7 courts finds upon the motion of any party that particularized discovery is necessary to preserve evidence or
8 to prevent undue prejudice." With respect to the first exception, there is not a hint of a suggestion in the
9 plaintiff's papers that there is an urgent need to preserve evidence. As for the second exception, the Ninth
10 Circuit has held that a plaintiff's inability, without discovery, to obtain the facts needed to meet the Reform
11 Act's heightened pleading requirements is not the sort of "undue prejudice" contemplated by the Reform
12 Act. SG Cowen, 189 F.3d at 913.

13 The Act requires the trial court to dismiss the complaint if it fails to satisfy the Act's
14 heightened pleading standards. See § 78u-4(b)(3)(A). Thus, as a matter of law, failure to
15 muster facts sufficient to meet the Act's pleading requirements cannot constitute the
16 requisite "undue prejudice" to the plaintiff justifying a lift of the discovery stay under § 78u-
4(b)(3)(B). To so hold would contravene the purpose of the Act's heightened pleading
standards.

17 Id. Thus, plaintiffs have not shown any justification for lifting the Reform Act's discovery stay to allow them
18 to take depositions before the Court rules on the upcoming motion to dismiss.

19 By filing this motion, however, plaintiffs are not seeking discovery in the ordinary sense of the word.
20 In essence, what the plaintiffs are asking for is an order from the Court allowing former JDSU employees to
21 speak voluntarily to plaintiffs' lead counsel about certain topics without fear of breaching JDSU's
22 confidentiality agreements. This is not discovery, because plaintiffs are not using court process to require
23 these third parties to provide information about the lawsuit. Instead, plaintiffs are merely seeking an order
24 that would allow former employees to speak voluntarily if they wish to do so.

25 JDSU argues, however, that Connecticut's motion falls within the scope of the Reform Act's stay of
26 "all discovery and other proceedings." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(b)(3)(B) (emphasis added). In Medhekar v.
27 United States District Court, 99 F.3d 325 (9th Cir. 1996), the Ninth Circuit was asked to determine
28 whether initial disclosures are stayed under the Reform Act during the pendency of a motion to dismiss.

1 The court held that initial disclosures are discovery, and therefore are included in the Reform Act's stay of
2 discovery until the district court upholds the complaint. Id. The court then went on to hold that even if
3 initial disclosures are not the same as discovery, they are at a minimum included in the Reform Act's stay of
4 "discovery and other proceedings." Id. In defining the term "other proceedings," the Ninth Circuit held
5 that "[g]iven the context and legislative history of the Act, it appears that the term was intended to include
6 litigation relating to discovery, which would certainly include disclosures and would not, as real party fears,
7 include all litigation activity in general." Id.

8 Here, however, Connecticut does not seek discovery, but merely seeks a ruling on the scope of
9 JDSU's confidentiality agreements with its former employees, so that it may speak with former employees
10 who wish to voluntarily cooperate with Connecticut's investigation. Unlike discovery and initial disclosures,
11 these interviews are not compelled by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Neither the former employees
12 nor the defendants are required to participate in these interviews in any way. The Court agrees with In re
13 Tyco International Ltd. Securities Litigation, 2001 U.S. Dist. Lexis 819 (D.N.H. 2001), in which the
14 district court declined to prohibit voluntary discussions between plaintiffs and third party witnesses because
15 "[n]either logic, tradition, the constitution nor the PSLRA prohibit interviewing prospective witnesses." Id.
16 at *8. In fact, the Reform Act's heightened pleading standard encourages plaintiffs to do more investigation
17 before filing a complaint, not less.

18 In re Flir Systems Inc. Securities Litigation, 2000 WL 33201904 (D. Or. 2000) is also instructive.
19 In Flir, the court was asked to permit a deposition of Palmquist, a former employee of the defendant, during
20 the discovery stay. The court distinguished SG Cowen by noting that discovery was not being sought
21 against the defendant, but against a third party, and thus the discovery would not impose any significant
22 burden on the defendant. Id. at *2. Because Palmquist had filed a civil complaint in state court alleging
23 accounting fraud by the defendant, the court found that the proposed discovery was not a mere fishing
24 expedition. Id. The court also noted that the only reason Palmquist would not talk to the plaintiffs
25 voluntarily was that defendants were asserting a confidentiality provision in Palmquist's employment
26 contract. Id. at *3. The court found that the Reform Act "is a shield intended to protect security-fraud
27 defendants from costly discovery requirements, [citation omitted], not to be a sword with which defendants
28 can destroy the plaintiffs' ability to obtain information from third parties who are otherwise willing to

1 disclose it.” Id. It is questionable whether Flir’s holding that plaintiffs could depose Palmquist is consistent
2 with SG Cowen. The Court agrees, however, with the Flir court’s conclusion that the Reform Act was not
3 intended to provide defendants with the means to bar all investigation into their conduct. The Reform Act
4 was not intended to provide defendants with immunity from suit, but, rather, was intended to protect
5 defendants from the burdens of defending against frivolous litigation.

6 Plaintiffs’ proposed interviews with former employees of JDSU do not impose any burden or cost
7 on JDSU. The Court finds that plaintiffs’ proposed voluntary interviews with former employees do not fall
8 within the scope of “discovery.” Accordingly, the Reform Act’s ban on discovery during the pendency of a
9 motion to dismiss has no application to plaintiffs’ motion.

10 **B. The merits of plaintiffs’ motion**

11 Connecticut states that it has no interest in any information that could be construed as a trade
12 secret, and is willing to discuss reasonable measures to accommodate any legitimate concerns of JDSU
13 with respect to use of the information obtained from former employees in the course of its investigation. In
14 Connecticut’s reply brief, it provides examples of the types of questions that it wishes to ask former
15 employees, all of which relate directly to the allegations of wrongdoing that are at issue in this case. None
16 of these questions appears to implicate any trade secrets of JDSU, or any other information that JDSU can
17 legitimately claim is confidential. Thus, contrary to JDSU’s attempts at misdirection, the issue is not
18 whether JDSU can lawfully enter into contracts with its employees to protect its confidential business
19 information and trade secrets. Connecticut concedes that such agreements are lawful. Instead, the issue is
20 whether JDSU’s confidentiality agreements can lawfully be used to prohibit its former employees from
21 providing whistleblower-type information about allegedly unlawful acts that occurred during their
22 employment with JDSU.

23 In Chambers v. Capital Cities/ABC, 159 F.R.D. 441 (S.D.N.Y. 1995), an age discrimination case,
24 plaintiffs’ counsel wished to interview former employees of the defendant. Plaintiffs sought an order
25 authorizing them to inform those former employees that they could safely disregard agreements with the
26 defendant not to disclose various types of information. The court recognized the legitimacy of agreements
27 between employers and employees that are designed to protect dissemination of confidential information.
28 Id. at 444. The court also held, however, that:

1 It has been recognized that at least in some circumstances, agreements obtained by
2 employers requiring former employees to remain silent about underlying events leading up
3 to disputes, or concerning potentially illegal practices when approached by others can be
4 harmful to the public's ability to rein in improper behavior, and in some contexts ability of
5 the United States to police violations of its laws. Absent possible extraordinary
6 circumstances not present here, it is against public policy for parties to agree not to reveal,
at least in the limited contexts of depositions or pre-deposition interviews concerning
litigation arising under federal law, facts relating to alleged or potential violations of such
law.

7 Id. (footnote omitted). The Court also noted that "agreements restricting former employee revelation of
8 events in the workplace which are not privileged but may involve violations of federal law have the effect of
9 'hindering' implementation of the 'Congressionally mandated duty to enforce the provisions' of federal
10 statutes." Id. (quoting EEOC v. United States Steel, 671 F. Supp. 351, 357 (E.D. Pa. 1987)). The court
11 declined to authorize plaintiffs' counsel to tell former employees that they need not be concerned about the
12 confidentiality agreements, however, because such a remedy "would make plaintiff's counsel the
13 decisionmaker concerning what confidentiality requirements were related to genuine trade secrets or other
14 legitimately privileged information, and which dealt with concealment of information relating to potential
15 improprieties on the part of the employee." Id. at 445. Instead, it ordered the defendant to either (1) notify
16 all former employees whom plaintiff wanted to interview, in writing, that no unfavorable consequences for
17 the employees would flow from providing information to plaintiffs' counsel about specific subjects, or (2)
18 accept an adverse inference that the information, if disclosed, would be contrary to defendant's position.

19 Id.

20
21 If applied to depositions or pre-deposition interviewing with respect to litigation under
22 federal substantive law, agreements calling or appearing to call for silence concerning
23 matters relevant to alleged legal violations, whether or not such agreements are sought to be
24 enforced, inherently chill communication relevant to the litigation. Where conduct of a party
tends to preclude availability of information relevant to a litigation and where no genuine
basis for keeping that information confidential exists, a court or factfinder may infer that the
information, if disclosed, would be contrary to the position of the party engaging in such
conduct.

25 Id.

26 Another case from the Southern District of New York also held that "[d]isclosures of wrongdoing
27 do not constitute revelations of trade secrets which can be prohibited by agreements binding on former
28 employees." McGrane v. The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 822 F. Supp. 1044, 1052 (S.D.N.Y.

1 1993). That court also noted that “[c]ourts are increasingly reluctant to enforce secrecy arrangements
2 where matters of substantial concern to the public – as distinct from trade secrets or other legitimately
3 confidential information – may be involved.” *Id.* at 1046.

4 Congress has also indicated a public policy in favor of whistleblowers in securities cases. The
5 recently enacted Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 prohibits companies from discriminating against employees
6 because of any lawful act by the employee to assist in an investigation of securities fraud. 18 U.S.C. §
7 1514A(a)(1). At oral argument, defendants correctly pointed out that this section only applied to
8 investigations conducted by the government, or by the company itself. Nonetheless, the statute
9 demonstrates the public policy in favor of allowing even current employees to assist in securities fraud
10 investigations. It certainly does not establish a public policy in favor of allowing employers to muzzle their
11 employees with overbroad confidentiality agreements.

12 Other than their argument that plaintiffs are attempting to circumvent the discovery stay provision of
13 the Reform Act, JDSU provides very few specific arguments against plaintiff’s motion, relying instead
14 primarily on straw-man arguments about the validity of confidentiality agreements in general. JDSU argues
15 that it used several types of agreements containing provisions designed to protect its confidential and
16 competitively sensitive business information, and that the form of those agreements evolved over the years.
17 (DeWees Decl. ¶¶ 10, 14.) JDSU does not state, however, that these agreements differed in any material
18 way from the sample agreements provided by Connecticut. In any event, the issue is not about the specific
19 language of any of these agreements, but whether JDSU can ever enforce these types of agreements against
20 former employees to prevent them from providing non-tradesecret, unprivileged information about JDSU’s
21 allegedly illegal activities.

22 JDSU does point to Patton v. Cox, 276 F.3d 493 (9th Cir. 2002), however, which arguably
23 provides some support to JDSU’s position. In that case, a doctor, Cox, conducted a court-ordered
24 psychological examination of the plaintiff, Patton, allegedly pursuant to an oral agreement with Patton to
25 keep the results of the examination confidential. *Id.* at 494. Patton and his former wife were involved in a
26 bitter child custody dispute, and Patton’s teenage sister-in-law had alleged that Patton had engaged in
27 improper sexual conduct with her. *Id.* at 494, 501. Patton was also a doctor, and as a result of his sister-
28 in-law’s allegations, the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners (“BOMEX”) filed a complaint against him for

unprofessional conduct and unfitness to practice medicine. Id. at 494. Dr. Cox voluntarily testified at the BOMEX hearing, and revealed that as a result of his examination of Patton, he believed that Patton was a pedophile and a danger to children. Id. at 495. Patton then sued Dr. Cox for breach of contract. Id.

The district court granted Dr. Cox's motion to dismiss on the ground that absolute witness immunity precluded any liability arising from Dr. Cox's testimony at a quasi-judicial hearing. Id. The Ninth Circuit reversed, applying Arizona law. The Court recognized that Dr. Cox served the public interest by bringing to light the potential danger facing Patton's young, female patients. Id. at 498. Nonetheless, the court concluded that:

applying our perception of Arizona law, we hold that witness immunity does not bar an action for breach of contract when, as in this case, the witness participated voluntarily in a quasi-judicial proceeding. This ruling will not hinder "the resolution of disputes and the ascertainment of truth," [citation omitted] because witnesses can be compelled to testify as needed, which would then trigger immunity protection.

Id. at 500. The Ninth Circuit noted that because Dr. Cox voluntarily entered into the confidentiality agreement, "[h]e chose to limit his ability to share information he obtained about Dr. Patton, and he was not at liberty to breach his obligation even if he felt it was in the public's best interest to do so." Id.

The Ninth Circuit did not discuss whether such agreements would be unenforceable in violation of public policy, and thus Patton does not directly conflict with Chambers. Nonetheless, by holding that the public interest did not trump Cox's confidentiality agreement with Patton, a reasonable argument could be made that the Ninth Circuit would not find the confidentiality agreements at issue here to be in violation of public policy, at least under Arizona law. This Court, of course, is applying federal law. Patton is also distinguishable because, unlike the instant case, Patton involved disclosure of private medical information, which is at the core of an individual's right to privacy. See id. ("we cannot help but consider the reasonable expectation of Dr. Patton that this extremely private information would not be disseminated beyond the scope of the Utah court order.") Highly personal medical information is the sort of information, like trade secrets, that a party unquestionably has the right to ask another party to keep confidential.

Here, however, JDSU's confidentiality agreements are so broad that they cover information that cannot possibly be considered confidential. To the extent that those agreements preclude former employees from assisting in investigations of wrongdoing that have nothing to do with trade secrets or other confidential business information, they conflict with the public policy in favor of allowing even current

1 employees to assist in securities fraud investigations.

2 In addition, one of the agreements, entitled “Separation Agreement and General Release,” bars
3 former employees who signed it from making “any disparaging statement” about the company, its clients,
4 vendors or customers. Unlike the agreement at issue in Patton, which the court found was voluntarily
5 entered into, plaintiffs stated at the hearing that this agreement was imposed on a former employee in a
6 mass layoff as a condition of receiving severance benefits. Defense counsel acknowledged that plaintiffs’
7 characterization may be correct. To the extent that this agreement can be read to prohibit an employee
8 from providing any information about any wrongdoing by JDSU, it is plainly unenforceable.

9 Accordingly, the Court finds that Chambers is more applicable here than Patton. The Court agrees
10 with the Chambers court that JDSU cannot use its confidentiality agreements to chill former employees from
11 voluntarily participating in legitimate investigations into alleged wrongdoing by JDSU. JDSU unquestionably
12 has a legitimate interest in preventing dissemination of trade secrets and confidential business information,
13 however. In order to properly balance these competing interests between Connecticut and JDSU, the
14 Court also agrees with the Chambers court that the appropriate remedy is not to allow plaintiffs to be the
15 sole arbiters of whether their investigation avoids infringing on legitimate confidentiality concerns.

16 The Court finds that the procedural restrictions imposed in Chambers are unduly cumbersome and
17 elaborate, however. Rather than requiring the defendants to provide written notice to all former employees
18 that plaintiff wished to interview, or accept an adverse inference, as in Chambers, the Court will simply rule
19 that answering the questions set forth in plaintiffs’ reply brief and the additional question requested at the
20 hearing do not violate JDSU’s confidentiality agreements. In addition, the Court will require the parties to
21 enter into a protective order providing that any information plaintiffs learn during the course of these
22 interviews may be used only for purposes of this litigation. This will be far less intimidating to the former
23 employee, and far less intrusive to the plaintiffs’ investigation, than requiring the plaintiffs to provide JDSU
24 with the name of each person they wish to interview and requiring JDSU’s counsel to attend each interview.
25 By issuing this order restricting the interviews to the questions that plaintiffs have requested, and to narrow
26 followup questions on those topics, the risk that the interviews will expand into areas of legitimate concern
27 to JDSU is minimized.

28 **III. Conclusion**

1 For the reasons set forth above, the Court grants Connecticut's motion to limit the scope of
2 confidentiality agreements signed by former JDSU employees, with the following restrictions:

3 1. All former employees of JDSU may answer the following questions, and any followup questions
4 on the same topic, without fear of breaching any confidentiality agreement with JDSU:

5 a. At what time during the Class Period did you become aware of a significant downturn in
6 JDSU sales or sale/revenue projections?

7 b. Do you have any reason to believe that JDSU managers, officers or directors became
8 aware of that downturn in sales or projections at any time during the Class Period?

9 c. At what time during the Class Period did you become aware of a significant decrease in
10 purchasing (including cancellation or modification of contracts) by JDSU?

11 d. Do you have any reason to believe that JDSU managers, officers or directors became
12 aware of that downturn in purchasing (or cancellation or modification of contracts) by JDSU?

13 e. At what time during the Class Period did you become aware of a downturn in JDSU's
14 production needs, e.g., eliminating work shifts, reducing overtime, instituting a hiring freeze?

15 f. At what time during the Class Period did you become aware of significant decrease in
16 JDSU inventory?

17 g. Do you have any reason to believe that JDSU managers, officers or directors became
18 aware of that inventory increase at any time during the Class Period?

19 h. At what time during the Class Period did you become aware of any inventory
20 obsolescence problems at JDSU?

21 i. Do you have any reason to believe that JDSU managers, officers or directors became
22 aware of that inventory obsolescence problem at any time during the Class Period?

23 j. Are you aware of any reason why any JDSU managers, officers or directors sold their
24 JDSU stock during the Class Period?

25 2. In answering these questions, former JDSU employees should not disclose any information
26 protected by the attorney-client privilege, nor should they disclose any confidential business methods used
27 by JDSU.

28 3. Any information plaintiffs learn during the course of their interviews with former JDSU

employees may be used only for purposes of this litigation.

4. Plaintiffs have not demonstrated that they are entitled to take any depositions prior to the Court's decision on the upcoming motion to dismiss.

5. Plaintiffs have not shown that they are entitled to an inference that, despite public disclosures to the contrary, defendants were aware of JDSU's sharply declining financial condition and results prior to their selling of more than one billion dollars' worth of Company stock.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 Dated: October 18, 2002

/s/ Elizabeth D. Laporte
ELIZABETH D. LAPORTE
United States Magistrate Judge

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